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Chief Magistrate Judge Mary Alice Theiler

4 JUN 18 2014
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7 AT SEATTLE
8 CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT
9 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
10 BY DEPUTY
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13 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
14 WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
15 AT SEATTLE
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17 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

18 Plaintiff

19 CASE NO. **MJ14-245**

20 COMPLAINT for VIOLATION

21 Title 18, U.S.C. Section 875(c)

22 v.
23 KESHAV MUKUND BHIDE,

24 Defendant.

25
26 BEFORE, Mary Alice Theiler, Chief United States Magistrate Judge, U. S.
27 Courthouse, Seattle, Washington.

28 The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

29 **COUNT ONE**

30 **(Interstate Threats)**

31 Beginning on or about May 31, 2014, and continuing until on or about June 9,
32 2014, at Seattle, within the Western District of Washington, and elsewhere, KESHAV
33 MUKUND BHIDE did knowingly and willfully transmit in interstate and foreign
34 commerce from the State of Washington to another state, communications, to wit, one or
35 more threats to cause serious physical injury or death to women at the University of
36 Washington and to two other women online.

37 All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 875(c).

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39 COMPLAINT/BHIDE - 1

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41 UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
42 700 STEWART STREET, SUITE 5220
43 SEATTLE, WASHINGTON 98101
44 (206) 553-7970

And the complainant states that this Complaint is based on the following information:

I, Michael Louis Baldino, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

INTRODUCTION

1. I have been a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation since January 2013. Before becoming an FBI agent, I was a professional firefighter, emergency medical and hazardous materials technician with Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department in Virginia. As an FBI Special Agent, I have investigated, received training and have field experience investigating the diverse criminal violations over which the FBI has jurisdiction, to include domestic and international terrorism, crimes against children, illegal narcotics and other violations of federal statutes. I have acquired knowledge and information about these offenses and the methods by which they are executed, through formal and informal training, from other law enforcement officers and investigators, informants, as well as through my participation in other investigations.

2. As a law enforcement officer, I have participated in the execution of numerous arrest and search warrants, which have resulted in arrests, convictions, and the recovery of evidence and contraband. I am currently assigned to the Seattle Division's Domestic Terrorism Squad on the Joint Terrorism Task Force, which investigates criminal violations relating to incidents of both domestic and international terrorism.

3. As outlined below, there is probable cause to believe that KESHAV MUKUND BHIDE has engaged in violations of Title 18, U.S.C. § 875(c) (Interstate Communications) and communicated through interstate commerce a threat to cause serious physical injury or death to women at the University of Washington and to two other women online.

BACKGROUND OF INVESTIGATION

4. On June 13, 2014, Detective William Bergin with the University of Washington Police Department (UWPD) contacted the Seattle office of the FBI with information regarding a possible mass shooter threat to the University of Washington.

1 (UW) campus. The threat involved an unidentified Google Plus user named FOSS
 2 DARK who claimed to be a student at the UW. FOSS DARK posted comments on
 3 several YouTube videos related to Elliot Rodger, the shooter in the killing spree that
 4 occurred at the University of Santa Barbara (UCSB) on May 23, 2014. Some of the
 5 comments made by FOSS DARK were posted only a few days after the recent shootings
 6 at Seattle Pacific University (SPU) on June 5, 2014.

7 5. Based on the information provided by UWPD, I reviewed an exchange
 8 between FOSS DARK and YouTube user “zarkoff45” between June 6, 2014 and June 9,
 9 2014 in the publically viewable comments portion of a YouTube video titled “Elliot
 10 Rodger: Infamy & Obscurity,” located at
 11 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E35YR3DGCIY>. In that exchange, FOSS DARK
 12 posted the following:

- 13 • June 6, 2014: “ohh il fuck allot of people before killing myself, wait and
 14 watch [sic]”
- 15 • June 9, 2014: “I live in seattle and go to UW, that’s all ill give u. Ill make
 16 sure I kill only women, and many more than what Elliot accomplished
 17 [sic]”

18 6. Upon further review of FOSS DARK’s public Google Plus profile, located
 19 at <https://plus.google.com/116502532697669488047>, I viewed additional threatening
 20 comments made to two women who posted YouTube videos condemning the actions of
 21 Elliot Rodger. On May 31, 2014, FOSS DARK commented that “people like u should be
 22 shot first, he killed because he was rejected from society, and you all help in doing that.
 23 There is no option [sic],” to a woman who posted a YouTube video titled “Protecting
 24 Elliot Rodger.” On June 1, 2014, FOSS DARK commented “i would love to shoot a c--t
 25 like u!, FUCK OFF, NO one is INNOCENT !!!!!!! [sic],” to a woman who posted a
 26 YouTube video titled “Message to people who feel bad for Elliot Rodger.”

27 7. On June 14, 2014, Google provided subscriber information which included
 28 the recovery e-mail address, keshav.bhide.009@gmail.com for Google Plus user FOSS

1 DARK. A search of the recovery e-mail address through FBI databases identified the
2 same email address in an F1 student visa application submitted by KESHAV MUKUND
3 BHIDE to attend the University of Washington. The subscriber information also
4 included Internet Protocol (IP) addresses that resolved to the UW, which FOSS DARK
5 used to create his account and post the above mentioned comments.

6 8. With the assistance of UWPD, BHIDE was contacted at his dormitory at
7 the UW on June 14, 2014, and agreed to an interview with agents. BHIDE was arrested
8 by the UWPD after admitting he created the Google Plus profile FOSS DARK and posted
9 the comments. BHIDE also identified the laptop he used to post the comments, which
10 was in his possession at the time of his arrest. During the interview, BHIDE said he
11 commented on approximately five YouTube videos and was extremely angry with their
12 criticism of Elliot Rodger. He also said that he sympathized with Rodger's personal
13 struggles and believed it was unfair for the creators of those videos to judge his actions.
14 BHIDE stated that he, like Rodger, had a hard time socializing at school and had few
15 friends.

16 9. I reviewed Google's data center location website located at
17 www.google.com/about/datacenters/inside/locations/index.html. It specifies that their
18 data centers – through which these postings would have passed – are located in Berkeley
19 County, South Carolina; Council Bluffs, Iowa; Douglas County, Georgia; Mayes County,
20 Oklahoma; Lenoir, North Carolina; Quilicura, Chile; and The Dalles, Oregon. There is
21 probable cause to believe that the comments described above involved an interstate wire
22 that traveled outside the State of Washington. YouTube is a subsidiary of Google, Inc.
23 and uses the same data centers.

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1 **CONCLUSION**

2 10. Based on the above facts, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause
3 to believe that KESHAV MUKUND BHIDE did knowingly and intentionally send
4 interstate threats, in violation of Title 18 United States Code, Section 875(c).

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6 Michael Louis Baldino, Complainant
7 Special Agent, FBI

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10 Based on the Complaint and Affidavit sworn to before me, and subscribed in my
11 presence, the Court hereby finds that there is probable cause to believe the Defendant
12 committed the offense set forth in the Complaint.

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14 Dated this 18th day of June, 2014.

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17 HON. MARY ALICE THEILER
18 Chief United States Magistrate Judge
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